

December 4, 1950.

Miss Elise Cahn,
Dept. Genetics,
Carnegie Institution,
Cold Spring Harbor, L.I., N.Y.

Dear Miss Cahn:

Your letter of December 1 will suffice to reopen your application for a project assistantship in my laboratory. I have not, however, received a letter from Dr. Torrey, who is referred to in your application. Such a letter might be helpful, but may not be essential for the immediate purpose. The same applies to possible more recent contacts.

Our space situation remains, for the moment, critical so that I must point out that your application will be considered along with similar requests from other prospective graduate students, as well as from post-graduate fellows. Therefore, there can be no assurance of your acceptance until other such applications are reviewed. You probably have understood this, and will be making parallel applications elsewhere. It would be helpful to know your plans in this respect.

As to your application for admission to the graduate school, unless you have in mind working with anyone else here, there is little point in your pursuing that now. There is no question of your admissibility to the university; it is only a matter of finding an appropriate research niche, and in this department, these are all associated with assistantships. If you wish to apply for admission, however, it would do no harm to do so.

Possibly a more constructive additional approach, however, would be an application directly to the Graduate School for a WARF Research Assistantship. This must be initiated by a sponsor; I believe that Dr. Demerec has transmitted some of these, and would be in a position to request an application form if he wished. These assistantships are awarded directly to the student, rather than via her research project, thus offering somewhat greater flexibility.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg,
Associate Professor of Genetics